

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of March 5 - March 9, 2007**

1. **Traffic Calming Project (Ward 2):** Work will begin next week on the installation of a traffic circle at Elm and Lincoln Avenues and a curb extension project at Auburn and Elm Avenues. *(Public Works)*

2. **Traffic Enforcement (Wards 1, 2, 3, & 4):** Officers conducted at least 124 traffic stops this week, ten of which ended in written citations, one impound and one arrest. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire, Flower, Carroll, Maple and Takoma Avenues. *(Police)*

3. Officers in Meetings, Seminars, & Conferences:

- On March 6, Chief Ricucci met with Commander Betsy Davis, Montgomery County Department of Police, Silver Spring District Commander.
- On March 7, Chief Ricucci met with Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy, Deputy State's Attorney John Maloney and Deputy State's Attorney Laura Chase to discuss schools, gangs and drug activity in and around Takoma Park.
- Also on March 7, the Chief met with members of the Police Honor Guard to appoint a new Honor Guard Commander and to discuss what needs to be accomplished to get the unit fully operational. Then the Chief and Lt. Collington attended a community meeting at the home of Jennifer Woffner, 7327 Carroll Ave. The meeting was called to discuss the recent commercial armed robberies and what the agency is doing to address this problem. Mayor Porter, Councilmembers Williams and Austin-Lane were also present. Approximately 30 residents were in attendance.
- On March 8, Chief Ricucci was interviewed by Paula Rehr, Takoma Park City TV, for the April edition of the Takoma Park Snap-Shots.
- On March 5 and 6, PFC Pedersen and Pvt. Black attended the Caliber Press Officer Street Survival Seminar in Reston, Virginia.
- On March 8 and 9, Lt. Collington attended the Mid-Atlantic Regional Gang Investigators Network Conference in Gaithersburg, Maryland. *(Police)*

4. **Second Chances:** On March 8, the CSAFE Team coordinated an Opportunities Fair, a social service and employment fair, for the offender and ex-offender community at the Long Branch Community Center. At least 30 service providers and employers and 60 participants were in attendance. Silver Spring District Commander Betsy Davis welcomed the group. She was followed by Linda Kennedy, Esq., from the Homeless Persons Representation Project, who delivered a presentation about expungement. Sgt. Kurt Gilbert finished the presentation by encouraging the participants to visit the service providers and employers in the back of the room. *(Police)*

5. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 4):** Tenants from the Hilltop Tenant Association (7716-20 Maple Avenue) met with staff from LEDC (Latino Economic Development Corporation) this week to hear about the various aspects of credit and the importance it plays when purchasing a home. The tenants are exploring their options to purchase the rental facility since the property was put on the market for sale. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. **First Time Home Buyer Seminars (City-wide):** The City will be conducting two "First Time Home Buyer" Seminars this spring. The first, to be conducted in Spanish, will take place on Saturday, April 14, from 8:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. On May 19, at the same location and time, the seminar will be conducted in English. For further information or to register for either seminar, please call Linda Walker at

301.891.7222. (*Housing and Community Development*)

7. Council Continues Rent Stabilization Discussion (City-wide): The City Council will continue its discussion of the rent stabilization law on Monday March 12 at a regularly scheduled Council meeting in the Community Center Auditorium. Topics to be discussed include the exemption of rental properties based on the number of units, an increase in the annual rent stabilization allowance, and limited rent increases upon vacancy. The community is invited to attend or to view the meeting on the city's website www.takomaparkmd.gov. (*Housing and Community Development*)

8. Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program Applications (Wards 2 and 6): The Housing and Community Development Department submitted two applications to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for technical support in furtherance of the Council's goals to revitalize the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. The first project, if approved, would provide assistance in the development of an educational/outreach process designed to increase the community's understanding of smart growth concepts; it would be used to facilitate the development of the Takoma/Langley Park Sector Plan being undertaken by Montgomery and Prince George's Counties planning staff with the assistance of the City of Takoma Park. The second project would provide assistance in the development of a financing package for the possible purchase and redevelopment of a larger commercial property in the corridor. (*Housing and Community Development*)

9. Master Plan Workshop - Piney Branch and Flower Avenue (Ward 5): City staff held a workshop for residents, property owners, and businesses to review the vision for new development as presented in the Master Plan and zoning ordinance at the commercial center and to identify small scale improvements. Sixteen people attended and discussed ways to make the area more attractive and safe. This was the second in a series of workshops that will be held to address each of the City's commercial areas. Two more workshops will take place in March - Sligo Creek Parkway and the Maryland Gateway. Workshops on Maple Avenue and Old Takoma are tentatively scheduled for April. (*Housing and Community Development*)

10. Vote for Art a Success (City-wide): The Arts and Humanities Commission's spring public Art project - Vote for Art - was held on Saturday, March 3 at Heffner Park. Approximately 45 - 50 people participated, creating their own political statement from recycled elections signs. The signs that were created can be seen across the community on March 13, National Arts Advocacy Day. The event was covered by the media with articles - and lots of photos - in the Washington Post (March 8), the Takoma Voice, and the Gazette. (*Housing and Community Development*)

11. This week - Art, Poetry and Music (City-wide): The Arts and Humanities Commission encourages you to participate in one of three arts events it is sponsoring this week. Each of the following events are free and open to the public:

- On Saturday - March 10 - an **opening reception** will be held at the Community Center in the Atrium Gallery from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in celebration of the work of local artist Diane Tuckman. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet with the artist and participate in a hands-on demonstration of silk painting. Ms. Tuckman's exhibit - Melange - can be viewed at the Community Center throughout the month of March.

- Later that evening, enjoy the **music and poetry** of local flutist Carrie Rose at 8 p.m. at The Culture Shop in Takoma, D.C. The concert is the result of a partnership between the Old Takoma Business Association, The Culture Shop and the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities

Commission. It is Carrie's gift to the community as she prepares to leave for Amsterdam to appear at the International Gaudeamus Interpreters Competition, an international contest for new music for all instruments. The event is free though you will need to RSVP due to limited space.

- Featured at this month's **poetry reading** will be the work of three area poets: Louise Beach, Brandon Johnson, and Ernie Wormwood. The reading will be held on Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. A reception will follow.
(Housing and Community Development)

12. Y.E.S. Basketball League: The Winter Y.E.S. Basketball League concluded on Friday, March 2 with a thrilling JV Championship game at Piney Branch Elementary School. Sweets Superstars held on to beat the upstart Showtime Lakers, 43-36, in an exciting contest that was recorded by our own Takoma Park Communications TV Department. In all, over 100 young men and women participated in this program that combined fun with learning the fundamentals of basketball. We're looking forward to our summer turnout of approximately 200 young people.
(Recreation)

13. Junior NBA: The Takoma Park Recreation Department will participate in a Junior NBA basketball tournament for kids 13 and under on March 18 at Catholic University. Sixteen teams from the Baltimore-Washington region will compete in the day-long tournament. Volunteer coaches Sean Hayes and James Seals will lead the Takoma Park contingent. *(Recreation)*